BCPharmaCare Newsletter *October 10, 2007 Edition 07-008*

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CHANGE TO RETROACTIVE REIMBURSEMENT UNDER THE FAIR PHARMACARE PLAN

What is Changing?

Starting **January 1, 2008**, PharmaCare will no longer reimburse prescription or medical supply costs paid before the date a family registers for Fair PharmaCare. Their costs will continue to count towards their Fair PharmaCare deductible and annual family maximum—but they will not be reimbursed for costs above the deductible that occurred before they registered.

What is not changing?

Eligible costs for the year **will** continue to count towards the deductible/family maximum for people who register later in the year, provided the individual or family:

- incurred the costs while actively enrolled in the Medical Services Plan (MSP)
- registers in the plan and has their net income (as reported to the Canada Revenue Agency) verified by PharmaCare before December 31.

Who needs to register?

We encourage all B.C. residents to register as soon as they receive their CareCard from MSP. In particular:

- We encourage all individuals on Plan C—that is, patients getting prescription coverage through Employment and Income Assistance (EIA)—to register for Fair PharmaCare in advance if they have not already done so. Registering for Fair PharmaCare will not affect their EIA coverage in any way, but will ensure that Fair PharmaCare coverage is in place if their EIA benefits end.
- We also encourage patients who are covered under other PharmaCare plans to register. For instance, patients on plans that have specialized formularies, such as Plan G (No Charge Psychiatric Medication Plan) or Plan P (Palliative Care Drug Plan), also need to register for Fair PharmaCare to ensure they have access to all PharmaCare benefits.

Retroactive reimbursement for families whose level of coverage changes during the year

If a family's deductible is lowered partway through the year, PharmaCare will reimburse any eligible costs the family paid during the year in excess of their new (lower) deductible from the later of:

- the date their family was registered for Fair PharmaCare, or
- the date of the most recent change in their family structure (i.e., addition or removal of a spouse from their PharmaCare record).

How should families register?

We recommend phone or online registration rather than paper registration. Fair PharmaCare assistance is effective immediately for eligible individuals who register by phone or online. The registration date for those registering by mail may be delayed by 6 to 8 weeks.

What about retroactive reimbursements for 2007?

Retroactive reimbursements for 2007 will be issued automatically in the Spring of 2008. The policy change does not affect payments for 2007 in any way.

Information for patients

Beginning in early October, we are mailing information packages to all B.C. pharmacies. These packages include:

- **PharmaCare Program** brochures
- **Fair PharmaCare Plan** brochures
- **Poster** encouraging B.C. residents to register for Fair PharmaCare
- **Information slips** about the new retroactive reimbursement policy.

If your pharmacy requires Punjabi, Chinese or French versions of the brochures—or if you do not receive an information package by October 22nd—please contact Health Insurance BC using the usual pharmacy phone numbers.

SPECIAL SERVICES FEES

The number of Special Services fees paid by PharmaCare over the past twelve months are:

Aug 2007	3,110	Feb 2007	2,777
Jul 2007	3,073	Jan 2007	2,653
Jun 2007	3,200	Dec 2006	4,462
May 2007	3,385	Nov 2006	4,425
Apr 2007	2,861	Oct 2006	3,715
Mar 2007	3,135	Sep 2006	3,505

CHANGE TO MANUFACTURER CODES

BCD

Until recently, each manufacturer was identified by a three-letter code. These Health Canada codes were recently converted to longer numerical codes. As it is not feasible to list each manufacturer and their corresponding numerical code, manufacturers will no longer be identified in our newsletter drug tables.

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For manufacturer information, please consult the Drug Product Database accessible from Health Canada's "Drugs & Health Products" web page at: www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/prodpharma/index_e.html.

LOW COST ALTERNATIVE (LCA) REFERENCE DRUG PROGRAM (RDP) BOOKLET CHANGES

New Drugs Categorized to LCA and/or RDP

The following newly-approved benefits have been added to existing LCA/RDP categories as eligible benefits for Plans B, C, F, I, and, if applicable, Plan G. (For the Plan G formulary, please visit the Special Authority Information page on the PharmaCare website at www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharme.)

DIN	DRUG NAME	RDP	LCA STATUS	SPECIAL AUTHORITY ONLY
2297868	GEN-ONDANSETRON 4 mg tablet		P*	Y
2297876	GEN-ONDANSETRON 8 mg tablet		P*	Y
2296616	GEN-ZOPICLONE 5 mg tablet		P*	Y
2287730	NOVO-DESMOPRESSIN 0.1 mg tablet		P*	Y
2287749	NOVO-DESMOPRESSIN 0.2 mg tablet		P*	Y
2289466	PMS-DOXYCYCLINE 100 mg tablet		P	
2289539	PMS-DOXYCYCLINE 100 mg capsule		P	
2291398	SANDOZ RAMIPRIL 1.25 mg tablet		P	
2291401	SANDOZ RAMIPRIL 2.5 mg tablet		P	
2291428	SANDOZ RAMIPRIL 5 mg tablet		P	
2291436	SANDOZ RAMIPRIL 10 mg tablet		P	

P – Partially covered

P* - Drug is a partial benefit if a Special Authority is in place when the prescription is filled.

New LCA Categories

Effective **November 12, 2007**, the following drugs (including both existing PharmaCare benefits and new PharmaCare benefits) will be included as new LCA Categories on PharmaNet.

NEW CATEGORY (CHEMICAL NAME)	DIN	BRAND NAME	LCA STATUS	PRICE
CLARITHROMYCIN TAB 250 MG	2274744	APO-CLARITHROMYCIN	F	
	2248856	GEN-CLARITHROMYCIN	F	
	2247818	RATIO-CLARITHROMYCIN	F	
	1984853	BIAXIN BID	P	1.1422
CLARITHROMYCIN TAB 500 MG	2274752	APO-CLARITHROMYCIN	F	
	2248857	GEN-CLARITHROMYCIN	F	
	2247819	RATIO-CLARITHROMYCIN	F	
	2126710	BIAXIN BID	P	2.2844
BENAZEPRIL TAB 5 MG	2290332	APO-BENAZEPRIL	P**	
	885835	LOTENSIN	P	0.6900
BENAZEPRIL TAB 10 MG	2290340	APO-BENAZEPRIL	P**	
	885843	LOTENSIN	P	0.8000

P – Partially covered

F – Fully covered

P** - Drug is full benefit if RDP Special Authority is in place when the prescription is filled.

LIMITED COVERAGE PROGRAM

The following new products are now eligible benefits under the Limited Coverage Program—by Special Authority only—for Plans B, C, F, I and, if indicated below, Plan G and/or Plan P. For the Special Authority criteria, please visit the Special Authority Information page on the PharmaCare website at www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharme.)

DIN	DRUG NAME	PLAN G	PLAN P
2249464	PREVACID® FASTAB (LANSOPRAZOLE) 15 mg delayed release tablets	N	N
2243089	ZYREXA® ZYDIS® (OLANZAPINE) 20 mg orally disintegrating tablets	Y	N
2238851	ZYPREXA® (OLANZAPINE) 20 mg tablets	Y	N

NON-BENEFITS

The following products have been reviewed and will not be added as benefits under PharmaCare.

DIN	DRUG NAME
2293943	APO-CEFPROZIL 125 MG/5ML
2293951	APO-CEFPROZIL 250 MG/5ML